

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS REPORT ON NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
IN NEW YORK

1. THE FOLLOWING UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE OCTOBER
12 CEYLON DAILY MIRROR, AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER. WE
PRESUME IT WAS BASED ON A BRIEFING BY SRI LANKA'S MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS A.C.S. HAMEED OR BY SOMEONE WHO ATTENDED
THE NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN NEW YORK.

2. TEXT: LANKA CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTION. MR. A.C.S. HAMEED,
SRI LANKA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO CHAIRED A MEET-
ING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK
A FEW DAYS AGO TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, TOLD THE MEETING THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT TOTALLY CONDEMNED ISRAELI ACTION IN ESTABLISHING
SETTLEMENTS ON OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

THE MEETING WAS SOMMONED ON THE INITIATIVE OF MR. ABDUL
HALIM KHADDAM, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF
SYRIA.

THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF NON-ALIGNED
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FOREIGN MINISTERS, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF INDIA,
YUGOSLAVIA, SAUDI ARABIA, CUBA, JAMAICA, TANZANIA, VIETNAM
AND VIRTUALLY ALL THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE
COUNTRIES.

MR. HAMEED IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS STRESSED THE SRI
LANKA GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE ARAB CAUSE AND EMPHASIZED
HIS GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI ACTION IN

ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS ON OCCUPIED TERRITORY WITH THE INSIDIOUS AIM OF ALTERING THE GEOGRAPHIC, DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

AFTER MR. HAMEED'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SYRIA MADE A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE OUTLINED THE PROBLEM AND CALLED FOR NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF THESE ISRAELI ACTIONS. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF VIETNAM, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF INDIA, CUBA, TANZANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA AND THE "FOREIGN MINISTER" OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WERE AMONG THE SPEAKERS. THE MEETING THEN CONSIDERED A DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY A NON-ALIGNED WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. AFTER A FEW AMENDMENTS, THE DECLARATION WAS ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE MEETING TO TAKE STEPS TO SET UP A COMMITTEE AS ENVISAGED UNDER RESOLUTION 8 OF THE COLOMBO SUMMIT TO FIND "PRACTICAL MEASURES OF ASSISTING THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE UNDER THE YOKE OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION". THE CHAIRMAN HOPED THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD MEET BEFORE OCTOBER 31.

THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF POLITICAL OBSERVERS AT THE UN WAS THAT THE MEETING WAS A REMARKABLE SUCCESS AT A TIME WHEN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION ENTERS A CRUCIAL STAGE. END TEXT.
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